



**Ninth International Symposium on Calcium-Binding
Proteins and Calcium Function in Health and Disease**
April 29 - May 3, 1995 The Airlie Center, Airlie, VA, U.S.A.

Symposium Secretary

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The Ninth International Symposium on Calcium and Calcium Binding Proteins in Health and Disease will be held at the Airlie House in Airlie, Virginia from 29 April to 3 May, 1995. The first meeting in this series took place in Poland in 1974. Originally the organizers intended to bring together scientists from diverse fields that were interested in calcium. The success of the first meeting prompted assembly of an official Organizing Committee that, with deletions and additions, has overseen all subsequent meetings. This series is the only one that deals with all aspects of calcium and makes an effort to cover exciting new advances regardless of the particular discipline involved. It is apparent that the field has literally exploded in the 20 years that have passed since the original meeting in Poland.

Calcium is now appreciated as one of the most important intracellular second messengers being crucial for secretion, motility, intermediary metabolism and cell division. In addition the calcium concentration in the extracellular fluid is tightly controlled by three hormones. Extracellular calcium participates in cell adhesion, organogenesis and serves as a ligand for a newly discovered transmembrane receptor. Thus defects in calcium homeostasis either intracellularly or extracellularly can lead to a variety of human diseases from rickets to malignant hyperthermia. To capitalize on the remarkable diversity of this divalent cation, we will focus the 1995 meeting on four broad but interrelated topics. These topics are: 1) Physiological Roles for Calcium; 2) Calcium Homeostasis; 3) Structural Bases for Calcium Regulation; and 4) Calcium Mediated Pathways in Human Disease. The Organizing Committee will assemble 10 sessions each of which will feature 4 speakers. Each session will have a Discussion Leader from among the members of the Organizing Committees who has made seminal contributions in the specific topic to be presented. We have presently secured 34 of these speakers the list of which includes 8 women, 2 minority, 9 young scientists and 12 participants from countries other than the USA. We plan to delay filling the final 6 slots to accommodate late breaking exciting advances in any or all of the four broad topics. In addition to the platform sessions, we will feature evening poster sessions. The Committee will select several of these poster abstracts for round table type short oral presentations. In this way we can involve virtually all participants in the functional aspects of the meetings. We feel that the timing of this meeting is excellent and it will be the most successful yet of the meetings devoted to calcium.